

Claim Listing

1. (Currently amended) A conveyor chain having a plurality of links arranged in rows, each of said links including a top plate having a continuous flat top surface and a hinge portion provided on said top plate, said hinge portion being pin-connected to the hinge portions in the adjacent link positioned on the back side, said conveyor chain having a curved conveying section, characterized in that engagement portions with the adjacent links positioned on the front and back sides in said top plate include continuous flat surface portions connected to said continuous flat top surface portion of said top plate, said flat surface portions are extended to said adjacent link, which is positioned on the front or back side with respect to the central axis of said pin and that when said link is passed through a curved conveying section, said continuous flat surface portions of said engagement portions are overlapped with each other.

2. (New) A conveyor chain as claimed in claim 1 wherein each said link includes at least one dummy hinge in each engagement portion.

3. (New) A conveyor chain as claimed in claim 2 wherein each dummy hinge includes a continuous flat surface portion.

4. (New) A conveyor chain as claimed in claim 1 wherein said continuous flat surface portions of said engagement portions overlap said central axis of said pin.

5. (New) A conveyor chain having a plurality of links arranged in rows for traversing a curved path, each of said links including a top plate having a continuous flat top surface and hinge portions provided on said top plate, said hinge portions being pin-

connected to the hinge portions in the adjacent link, said pin connection defining a central axis, characterized in that said hinge portions include engagement portions with adjacent links positioned on the front and back sides of said top plate, said engagement portions include continuous flat surface portions connected to said continuous flat top surface of said top plate, and, said continuous flat surface portions of each of said engagement portions of each said link overlap said central axis.

6. (New) A conveyor chain as claimed in claim 5 further comprising a front hinge portion and a rear hinge portion, said front hinge portion including keyed apertures for retaining said pin such that it is not longitudinally moveable within said apertures, said rear hinge portion including longitudinally oversized apertures, said pin extending through said keyed apertures and said longitudinally oversized apertures allowing articulation of said links with respect to the adjacent link while said continuous flat surface portions of said engagement portions of each said link overlap said central axis.